

Not your everyday wristwatch

Physics colloquium discusses new technology

Jason Fish
Staff Writer

Clocks are getting smaller, and researchers at the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) in Boulder are doing the shrinking. Last Tuesday's Physics department colloquium featured John Kitching, a staff physicist in the Time and Frequency Division at NIST. The lecture covered leading research going on at the Institute in fabricating miniature atomic clocks with accuracy to billionths of second and longevity to be dependable for years. Kitching began by showing the audience pictures of the most accurate atomic clock in the world, NIST's F-1. While useful, reliable, and designed to not lose or gain a second in 60 million years, the F-1 is bulky and occupies an entire laboratory. "What could this technology do if shrunk to the size of a sugar cube?" asked Kitching. Research beginning in 2001 involving NIST and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has proved promising for lowering this size limit. Furthermore, the range of uses for these smaller clocks is expanding. Before getting into applications, the talk covered the basic workings of atomic clocks. These advanced timekeepers derive their unit of time (the second) from measuring the electromagnetic vibrations of gaseous atoms.

At the heart of an atomic clock sits a small package, called a vapor cell, filled with a gaseous element, usually Rubidium or Cesium. This container is exposed to microwave radiation and the atoms are excited to oscillate and bounce around the cell. "Essentially, we're driving them like a pendulum," said Kitching. The energized atoms have a regular period of vibration and this value is the basis for measuring time. These procedures have worked well for the larger clocks like the F-1. But, when the size is decreased dramatically, the operation becomes more difficult. A smaller vapor cell does not allow the atoms to resonate as well. Kitching and others in the division have developed a solution. By mixing an inert buffer gas in with the active atomic gas and hitting the chamber with a tightly focused modulated laser beam, the oscillations are well-controlled and produce reliable measurements. "This technique allows excitation while decreasing the size of the clock," said Kitching. The smaller parts are constructed through a process called micromachining, which allows fine detail on a microscopic level, producing a complete clock a few millimeters thick and a dozen tall. "We can make these things very small and [make] a lot of them," said Kitching. "They're easily integrable

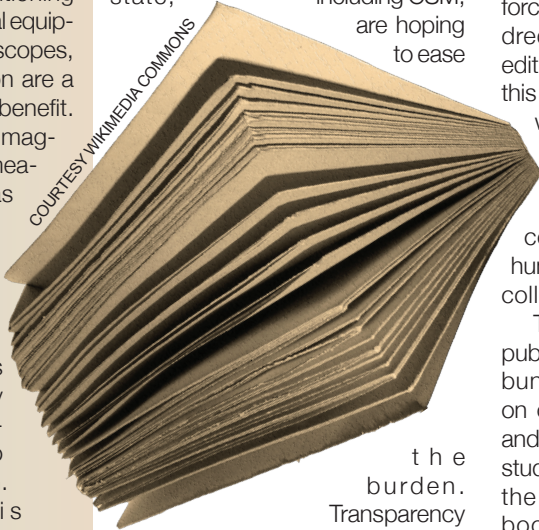
with the other components." To illustrate this point, he passed around one of the miniature clocks. Kitching finished his talk by discussing the different applications of small atomic clocks. Better and more accurate global positioning systems (GPS), seismological equipment, remote sensors, gyroscopes, and wireless communication are a few of the fields that could benefit. Out of all these areas, magnetometry, the science of measuring magnetic fields, was focused on the most. The small atomic clocks can be made to be very sensitive to magnetic fluctuations, and this ability has uses in the health sciences with magnetocardiography and magnetoencephalography, which are used to study the heart and brain. "This science is growing in the medical community," said Kitching. The lecture made a good impression on the audience. "We're lucky to have him this close," said Dr. Tom Furtak, Physics Department Head. "It's great to hear about the latest in miniaturization of these important devices, a real treat." "I felt the talk was very well presented," said Cary Allen, a Physics PhD student. "Although I don't understand the details of cesium transitions, he brought home the basic ideas of the physics."

CSM Students rally for affordable textbooks

Akira Rattenbury
Staff Writer

Think you're paying too much for textbooks? Colorado lawmakers and students from across the state, including CSM, are hoping to ease the burden. Transparency and affordability was the message taken to the state capitol building on Thursday by college students. The Associated Students of Colorado (ASC), which includes CSM as a member, held a rally at 11 AM last Thursday to help push the Textbook Affordability Act through the state legislature. The bill is currently making its way through the Senate and House education committees. It requires publishers to "disclose to faculty all the substantial changes between subsequent editions," said Casey Morse,

Associated Students of the Colorado School of Mines (ASCSM) President. Publishing companies often issue new editions of textbooks with only minor changes, which sink used textbook prices. This forces many students to pay hundreds more just to get the new edition. Legislation hopes to slow this trend, and confront publishers who make insignificant changes to raise prices. "This would allow students to purchase used books more often, and could end up saving students hundreds of dollars through their college education," said Morse. The legislation also calls for publishers to offer textbooks "unbundled." Many textbooks sold on campus are bundled with CDs and other peripheral material many students ignore. "I don't even pull the CD out of the back of the book," said CSM Junior Hans Mueller. "The teachers usually explain material better anyways." The rally was attended by several CSM students including ASCSM officers Casey Morse, Wendy Brost, and Kevin Duffy, and members of the McBride Honors Program Public Policy Seminar. Student participation in this campaign has led to its success at the state capitol. "Students at Mines did their part by writing letters to our local delegate, Senator Moe Keller," said Morse. Future goals include meeting with other area legislators including Representative Gwyn Green and Representative Robert Witwer. Most students at Mines purchase their books from the CSM bookstore. Ed Showers, the bookstore's manager makes every attempt to purchase used books before ordering new books. "We are completely behind any legislation which reduces the cost of textbooks for students," said Showers. "Ideally, the bookstore benefits from used books. When we sell used books, the student selling wins, the student buying wins, and we win." Unfortunately, many classes at CSM change books and editions from semester to semester with little regard to the costs students must carry to purchase new editions. Professors must also make an active effort to accommodate college students on a budget. "This campaign is the first step toward regulating a monopolistic market for the benefit of the consumers, who are students in this case," said Morse. Many students at CSM juggle jobs, difficult classes, and thrifty social lives to stay afloat financially. The campaign is also reaching out nationally with the College Opportunity and Affordability Act which seeks to mitigate high college costs by making attending more affordable and accessible. The bill includes clauses calling for textbook publishing transparency from companies.



COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Putin moves Russia towards refresh of arms race

Emily Trudell
Staff Writer

In response to military expansion by the United States and NATO into Europe, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday that the country would react to the perceived threats. "Russia will always respond to a new challenge," said Putin. This United States expansion was part of an effort to establish a small missile defense system in Europe, and has put out statements that this endeavor is no threat to the country of Russia. By the end of the project, the United States plans to have established missile defense systems in Poland, Czech Republic, Romania and Bulgaria. The United States and NATO have stated that this missile defense system has been made with the intention of protecting NATO nations and concerned countries from Iranian missile threats. Despite statements by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice asserting that the United States has no intention of posing a threat to Russia, Putin assures that his nation would react to

any perceived hostile expansion. Putin also said Friday that he considered this expansion as the next step in the arms race, which, he said, was the effort of other nations to produce weapons that are competitive with those made by Russia. "Russia will always respond to this new challenge ... In the near future, we will develop new weapons that have the same characteristics, and in some cases better characteristics, as those being built by other countries," said Putin. Though the Russian capacity weaponry is far below what it was in the Soviet era, high oil prices have increased Russia's budget for military advancement. Russia has since resumed long-range bomber patrols and plans for future naval testing in the Mediterranean and Atlantic Ocean.



WILLIAM EVERSON / OREDIGGER

Strong Support: Republican caucus attendees gather in Colorado to cast their votes for the party's presidential nominee. Turn to page 3 for more information.

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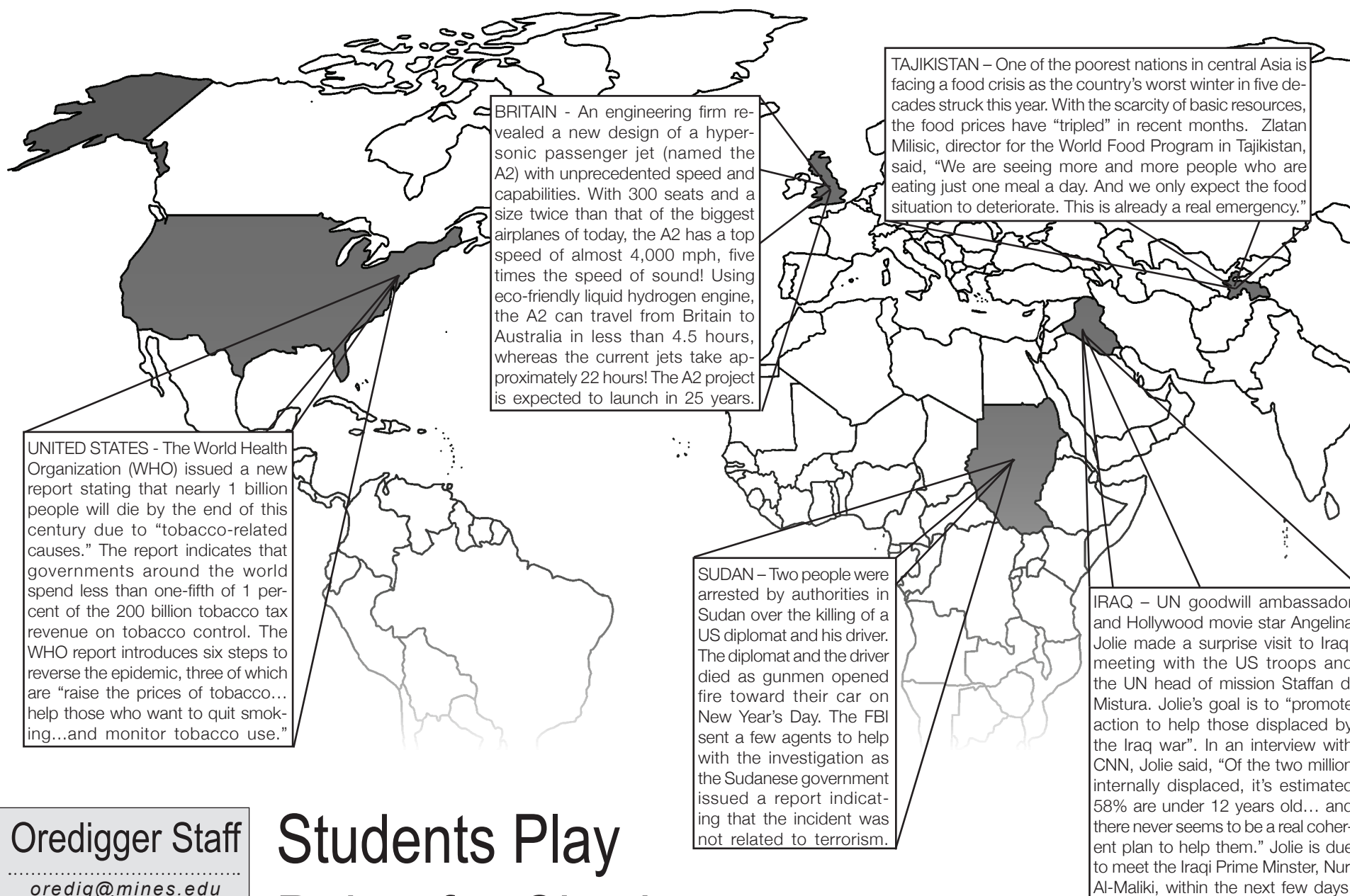
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World News in Brief

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ASSOCIATED
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Students Play Poker for Charity

Hilary Brown
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

When a new advisor for Mines' Tau Beta Pi chapter suddenly passed away last summer, it was decided to create a scholarship fund in his name. This Friday, Feb. 15, Tau Beta Pi will host a Texas Hold 'Em tournament to raise money for the Shawn R. Schwaller Scholarship fund.

The organization hopes to raise at least \$250. Dr. Jeff Squier, a faculty advisor for the organization, has pledged to match dollar-for-dollar what the tournament raises, up to \$2000.

"Dr. Squier's pledge is quite a generous one and one that I hope will inspire more donations at the tournament," said David Murrell, Treasurer of the Mines chapter of Tau Beta Pi. "These donations are tax deductible to Tau Beta Pi, so it is a great way to lessen your tax burden for a great cause."

The tournament will take place from 6-10pm in Ballrooms D & E of the Student Center. It will cost players \$5 to enter the tournament. Half of the money will be donated to the memorial fund, while the other half will go towards prizes for the top finishers in the tournament. Players will advance through the tournament by winning "each table until the final round where the top finishers will be awarded prizes," said Murrell.

Players of all levels are encouraged to attend. On the beginners table, an experienced player will deal and instruct players on the game. On all other tables, the players will deal for themselves.



ZACH AMAN / OREDIGGER

Schwaller was a Tau Beta Pi alum and was married to the coordinator of the district that Mines' chapter is a part of. He resided in East Denver.

"[Shawn] volunteered to be our advisor at the Tau Beta Pi Spring conference last year and I had a chance to spend a great deal of time with him," said Murrell. "I was very impressed and was quite optimistic about what we could accomplish in the coming fall. However, it was not to be."

"Shawn was diagnosed with Leukemia over the summer and passed away after a valiant month-long fight," continued Murrell. "It was most unexpected for everyone who knew him and he is deeply missed."

At Schwaller's funeral, Tau Beta Pi representatives from Mines and CU met with the District Director and decided to establish a scholarship fund in his honor. Tau Beta Pi awards many undergraduate scholarships annually, each scholarship is a few thousand dollars. The Shawn R. Schwaller Scholarship will be one of those awarded nationally to Tau Beta Pi members.

"At Mines, we have received 4 of these undergraduate scholarships in the last 2 years so it has been quite a benefit for the Mines community," said Murrell.

MAC Announces "Medieval Days"

**E-Days Committee
Press Release**

This year's Engineering Days at the Colorado School of Mines will carry a theme of "Medieval Days."

The E-Days committee, a branch of Mines Activity Council, is led by Senior Bruce Bugbee and advised by Assistant Student Activities Director Marie Hornickel. "I feel that this year's E-Days is going to be one of the best ever," said Bugbee. "The committee this year is full of people that are dedicated to making this E-Days enjoyable for the entire Mines community."

"Medieval Days will be the best E-Days yet," said committee member Emily Milian. This year's events will include all of the traditional events, but students should pay special attention to the fireworks show. The committee has yet to release any details on the fireworks.

"We have a big act to follow with the success of last year's events, but we are up to the task," said Bugbee. "This year's theme of 'Medieval Days' has given our committee plenty of amazing ideas to put our own personal touch on E-Days."



COURTESY MINES MAGAZINE

2007 Ore Cart Pull: CSM students walk Blaster, the school's mascot, down Colfax Ave. to the state capitol.

Shall We Caucus?

High turnout for Denver-area Democratic and Republican Caucuses last week

Dems choose Obama

Kyle Clark
Staff Writer

"Regardless of who you vote for, you're going to make history." These were the first words announced at 7 pm, February 5th. Bell Middle School in Golden held the Democratic Caucus for nine separate districts, and over four hundred people showed up to make themselves heard.

This year is an unusual year when it comes to presidential candidates. For the first time, Democrats had to choose between, potentially, the first woman president or the first African-American president. With all race and gender set aside, people of a common party had to make a decision. Who should be the Democratic Candidate?

One district of ninety-nine registered voters had a very informal debate about who to choose: Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton. Those in support of Clinton stated that they believe the years she spent as a first lady gives her a definite advantage over Obama. "Hillary is the only one with enough experience to do this," stated one voter.

However, there seemed to be more said in favor of Obama. One voter commended Obama's apparent ability to bring people together as a whole. "When I hear Hillary speak, all I hear is 'I, I, I'. When I hear Obama speak, it's us. We're together in this." Another voter talked about how Clinton's previous

role in the White House could be a disadvantage. "We need a new generation of leadership because we are going into a new age."

Things did change when someone loudly wondered "...how we're going to pick the best candidate to run against the Republicans." On that issue, at least, most could agree on something. Clinton is less likable while Obama was apparently able to convince some belonging to the Independent or Unaffiliated to become Democrats. Many also believed that Clinton was a better target for the Republicans, not because she was easier to hit but she makes them want to hit her and hit her hard, figuratively of course.

In the end, Obama won the local district over with an approximate four-to-one vote and went on to win the rest of Colorado. Romney took the Republicans of Colorado by the end of the night as well.

Many commented on this year's caucus turnout. Not only were there more people, but the younger generation appears to be more involved. One voter said, "Six months ago, I didn't even know what a caucus was. For the first time ever, I'm inspired." After such a turnout for the caucuses, it will be interesting to see how many people choose to vote in the presidential election.

For the moment, it is still too early to declare the candidate for the Democrats. Many will be waiting and watching in the coming months.

Republicans choose Romney

William Everson
Staff Writer

February 5th, also known as Super Tuesday, was marked by rounds of Democrat and Republican primaries and caucuses throughout the nation, the greatest number of primaries ever held on the same day.

Colorado was just one of the many states to participate in Super Tuesday, with Democrats and Republicans caucusing throughout each county.

The Republican caucus held at Columbine High School was just one of the many caucuses held in the state on Tuesday. As the evening began, bands of Republican caucus-goers filled into the empty school's cafeteria, glad to escape the chilled evening air.

Here, methodical volunteers checked in the queue, directing them to their designated district's table while sharing hearty banter. Upon arriving at their districts table, new caucus attendees were meet with a friendly welcome while caucus veterans were meet with old friends. Here they were signed in and given explanations of the nights proceedings, as well as ballots with which to cast their vote. Caucus organizers and Republican politicians initiated the event with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Beckoned to their feet by their common reverence for their coun-

try, the caucus-goers, organizers, and politicians recited in unison a pledge of respect to the country they hold so dear; only the strobe from a lone photographer's flash cast disorder upon the uniformity that occupied the room. The pledge concluded, unity ended, and the proceedings began.

Each individual district began by having its members vote in the presidential straw poll. Next, delegates to the county, state, and congressional district assemblies where voted on. Finally, members were encouraged to relate any issues they deemed necessary for party policy.

According to organizers, the evening was a huge success; turnout was one of the largest in history. "The numbers are terrific," said former U.S. State Senator Bill Armstrong. There were so many people that many districts were "standing room only."

One veteran caucus participant said, "We usually have about 10-15 people show up - tonight we had 90."

Political enthusiasm was high as well. "This is how it's supposed to be," said an enthusiastic caucus organizer responding to the animated discussions among the participants.

With such a large turnout and such an excited constituency, many caucus-goers were confident of Republican victories in the upcoming election. The evening "bodes well for Republican

prospects," explained Armstrong. Now as Republican candidates start facing off against Democratic ones the real election begins. As one caucus member put it: "let's get this show on the road."

In the Republican caucuses, delegates and alternates were selected from party constituents for the county, state, and congressional district assemblies. County delegates will move on to the county assembly where they will vote for candidates that will appear on the county's Republican primary ballot.

State delegates will select delegates who will go on to the Republican National Convention where they will vote for the Republican presidential candidate. At the congressional district assembly, delegates will vote for candidates who will appear on their respective district's primary election.

A presidential straw poll was also taken, in which caucus-goers were polled to determine their presidential preference. In Colorado, Mitt Romney won the straw poll with 60% of the votes. John McCain came in second, securing only 19% of the votes. Mike Huckabee came in third with 13% of the votes and Ron Paul came in fourth with just 8% of the votes. The results of the straw poll were only novelties and may not determine who the delegates from the State Assembly choose to nominate for President.

News Bits And Conspiracy Theories: Microhoo, GoogApple and Real ...with Ian Littman

TECH BREAK

Stop the presses! A lot of important things happening in the world of tech just now have pushed back the normal article schedule a week...which is fine, as the upcoming articles can be talked about whenever. But this news just can't wait.

1. Microsoft wants Yahoo

In what is regarded by people everywhere as an awfully friendly "hostile takeover", Microsoft wants to buy Yahoo for an astounding \$44.6 billion, with a big B. In stock terms, that's about 60% above the value that Yahoo stock had before the takeover was announced. Stock value has since shot up. Google is worried... They say that Yahoo + Microsoft = Monopoly. As much as I love Google, I have got to say "please, guys" and point to their dominance in the two markets where a "Microhoo" would really start to compete with their current grip: search and advertising. But I'll bet Google would rather keep going on their DoubleClick advertising service acquisition, which is also quite large, and let Microhoo come to exist, than give one up to keep the other from happening.

Heck, to be a conspiracy theorist, Google might just go and grab AOL up, maybe even complete with Time Warner Cable, and change the face of the internet right there. Then again they may not, but guess whose IM service is now integrated right into your Gmail account? Yep, it's AOL. Again, Google probably has other plans... like offering to buy off

Yahoo's search and search advertising arms for a pretty hefty chunk of dough. But hey, a man can theorize...

2. Yahoo and Sony say Good-bye to the Music Scene

Looks like Yahoo, even with their rather astonishing portfolio of music related stuff (from LaunchCast radio to lyrics to their decent-quality player with your choice of iTunes-like or unlimited music service), is moving out of the business, transitioning customers over to Real's Crapso... er... Rhapsody platform. Okay, that wasn't an accident; Yahoo's music software is a fair bit superior to Real's Rhapsody service, though it offers fewer songs overall, and Yahoo can be had for less than half of what Real charges for their unlimited service if you subscribed at the right time. I wonder what will happen to my awesome two-years-for-the-price-of-one unlimited subscription, with which I can put music on my Creative Zen (think iPod-ish) and my HTC Mogul (think iPhone-ish)... and a few computers, plus stream music to whatever Yahoo-equipped PC I happen to log into. If I have to pay \$14.99 a month for it, I'm paying that money to the new Napster, for as long as they may stand... I might even weasel my way out of the 2-year prepaid "contract" if I'm forced to use Real's subpar software.

Another conspiracy theory here: Yahoo bought the darn-good music player software provider MusicMatch back a few years ago, and that's where the Yahoo Music Jukebox

software came from, though it looks a lot different than the original MusicMatch product. Now... it's gone. Or will be soon. Did RealNetworks make Yahoo a sweetheart deal to kill off its arch-rival (Microsoft's Windows Media Player and Apple's iTunes don't count; they're too big to be seen as fair-game competition)? Again, a man can wonder...

In other news, Sony kills off their ATRAC (pronounced 8-track... just kidding, but same concept) powered Connect Digital Music Store. Burn your music to CD now, because their DRM servers won't be online much longer, and after they're gone, your Connect tracks are gone. Hate it when that happens.

3. Air Arrives, Touch and iPhone Get Bigger

Okay, Apple isn't going to buy out AOL or Google, though AIM works great with OS X and Google works great on everything Apple. But one thing is for certain: those shiny new Macbook Air units are arriving... to the deafening criticism of the news media. Some people love 'em, some people just can't jive with 'em,



PATRICK BESEDA / OREDIGGER

That's SICK: The CSM Democrats hosted a showing of Michael Moore's *SICKO* last Friday. Check out www.oredigger.net for the web exclusive coverage of the event.

and some people can't separate themselves from 'em even if they don't like a lot of the shortcomings, which range from mediocre battery life to those darned recessed ports where you need an extension cable to plug in your favorite headphones or USB devices. But one thing is for certain: the little guys are coming, and boy do they look awesome. At this point, I'm not sure whether I'll purchase one of the featherweight laptops, but I will be reviewing the demo unit for 24 hours after the bookstore gets their demo model in and I'll tell everyone what I think. If I buy a Macbook Air, it certainly won't be the low-end model, but will I buy one at all? Stay tuned to find out...

Oh, and some more breaking news: for \$100 more in both instances, you can have on the one hand a 16GB iPhone and on the other a 32GB(!) iPod Touch. Both are \$499. Really hard choice or me; I don't want to give up my trusty

software-unlocked iPhone I've had since October, but I know it's pretty trivial to get the new iPhone working with my T-Mobile service anyhow (I run www.freeit4less.com, which unlocks iPhones). But why do that when I can get an awesome thirty-two gigs of space in something just a tad smaller... besides the fact that the Touch is one more thing to carry around, and the iPhone is supposed to do that, right? Apple, please, oh, please give us a 32GB iPhone and leave the Touch capacity alone, so people don't have to choose between storage and phone ability if they have \$600 to blow!

And with that, this tech news break has ended. Next week will likely be back to another article on maximizing your tech life. The week after that... maybe more news. You know, like a Macbook Air review or something. Stay tuned, and drop me a line at ilittman@mines.edu if you like these articles!

Vampire Weekend

Jake Rezac
Staff Writer

"Cape Cod Kwassa Kwassa", "Upper West Side Soweto", and "Oxford Comma Riddim" are just some of the adjectives that Vampire Weekend uses to describe their sound. If these "genres" sounds pompous, then the band has achieved its goal. Vampire Weekend is composed of four Columbia graduates from New York City, and they're not afraid to make their preppy backgrounds known (ironically in some cases). Despite this, their self-titled debut album delivers a nice blend of African and Caribbean rhythms and harmonies with laid back indie-pop melodies and lyrics.

The band was relatively unknown until they started sending record companies and music blogs a blue CD-R, aptly titled Vampire Weekend: Blue CD-R. This contained un-mastered copies of songs which would eventually appear on their new album. Although major record companies ignored them at first, some well-known blogs were very impressed with the innovative style of the band, and gave them outstanding reviews.

Vampire Weekend begins with "Mansard Roof" – the album's single – which makes obscure references to McDonalds (which have mansard roofs) as well as discussing the Falklands War. Although the lyrics are vague and needlessly obtuse, simple piano chords and arpeggios permeate the song, giving it a relaxed feel, while lead singer Ezra Koenig's tenor voice conversationally sings about McDonalds the way only a Columbia graduate would.

In the track, "Oxford Comma," smooth and light guitar riffs and African dance beats from the drums provide an ideal context for the song, in which the singer chastises someone for the same preppy attitude that pervades many of the other tracks. One of these tracks is "Cape Cod Kwassa Kwassa," which talks about the very rich vacationing for the summer in Cape Cod. However, relaxed guitar riffs and informal singing still is the base of the sound, and the song ends up being extremely catchy.

Vampire Weekend combines the same laid back attitude toward songwriting displayed by the Strokes with rhythms common in South African pop music. Despite the odd combination, it makes for an addictive sound which, after the initial confusion caused by the style, will cause repetitive listening.

Geek of the Week

...Eric "Salmon" Charrier, Sophomore: Environmental Eng.

Melinda Bartel
Staff Writer

Why is your nickname Salmon?

Because I'm a commercial fisherman in Alaska. I'm pretty much a Professional Mariner. I've been doing it since I was about 5 or 6, and it's good money for college. Plus, in Alaska you can do cool things like falling out of trees. I got the name when I came here last year, between first and second semester.

What is the Geekiest thing you own?

It's a toss up between any one of my 3 computers. I have a gaming computer, my laptop for school stuff, and my old computer that I'm setting up for a Linux Filing Server.

What do you like to do on your free time?

I do a pretty big mix of things. I do random red neck stunts around campus. My jeep is covered with mud. And I go shooting every once in a while.

Are you part of any organizations on campus?

I'm in McBride, and I'm part of a small wrestling club on campus. I would have done the IM wrestling tournament if I wasn't sick, and I would have won heavy weights. And occasionally I go to meetings for the CSM Democrats.

Do you want Barack or Hillary?

Barack. I'm sick and tired of the current group of politicians and he's the only one who has the chance of being a breath of fresh air. I don't really like the idea of having 28 years of Clintons and Bushes.

What is the Geekiest prank you ever played?

I spread fermented protein shake

around another hall's laundry room last year. And I signed our RA up for free adult diaper samples in the mail.

What kind of books do you like to read?

I read mostly non fiction. But I like political science, history, and satire fiction. My favorite book is 1984. When I'm older, I want to write a political satire book.

When did you know you were a Geek?

I'm more of a redneck than a geek. I grew up in a hick town, and I was

the nerd of my senior class by far.

What are some of your biggest hobbies?

I like modifying video games and making custom graphics for older games. It's fun to make an extra level. And I used to be a LEGO maniac, but I replaced that with my own 3D animation for things. Right now I'm working on a video for Dr. Knecht. And I find lots of random projects to do. I made all my furniture in my house out of 2 by 4s.

Why did you want to come to Mines?

Well, since fishing only takes place in the summer, and my

Mom was sick of rain in Washington, we moved to Colorado. I wanted to get in state tuition and Mines offered me a good scholarship.



MELINDA BARTEL / OREDIGGER

Show Us Your Guns: Salmon is a Professional Mariner.

Green Tip of the Week

Natalie Wagner
Guest Columnist

This week's theme is minimizing impact. The tips below should help you feel better about all that stuff that you do to make you feel alive and happy:

Use Canvas bags:

Plastic bags are the bane of our generation. It is finally being proposed to charge 10 cents at the grocery stores in Colorado for each little plastic shopping bag (http://blogs.rockymountainnews.com/denver/rockytalklive/archives/2008/02/paper_or_plastic_and_a_dime_1.html#more). These bags have done more damage than politicians could ever dream of accomplishing, even the really evil ones: just ask National Geographic (http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2003/09/0902_030902_plasticbags.html).

EHS recycles EVERYTHING:

Do you happen to have an old, broken TV, computer, or nuclear reactor? Well, whatever you happen to have that is taking up space and if you are too lazy to recycle, Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) is there for you. Just bring the item in question by the EHS place, between the Geology museum and the Plant Facilities trailers, and your extra junk will become more wonderfully recycled miscellaneous things.

FreeCycle:

This is a pretty low key Yahoo group that is committed to keeping the rest of your still-functioning junk out of land fills. Just log onto www.freecycle.org and get it out!

Misc. Green Efforts:

Here are some places you can check out:
<http://Terrapass.com>: Calculate how eco-friendly your car is
<http://OrganicExchange.com>: Seeking organic clothes, here's the place
<http://TreeBlocks.com>: Toys to learn algebra and to be a kid again....
www.BioBagUsa.com: Biodegradable bags for every occasion

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Close games define season for men’s basketball

Matthew Pusard
Content Manager

It’s been a season of close games and heartbreaking losses for the men’s basketball program, but it appears that the team has finally turned the corner. “We have lost 9 games by 8 points or less and, I think, 5 or 6 we’ve led late in the second half and had double figure leads and we’ve lost it,” said Coach Pryor Orser, in his seventh year of coaching the Orediggers. “We’ve had problems with turnovers and mental errors like that, but overall, they are playing very, very hard and we’re really together as a team. If we play well, we can beat any team from here on out, but by the same token, if we have mental errors and mistakes, I think we would end up on the short end of those games as well.” CSM is currently 6-9 in conference, fighting a six team logjam for the last two spots in the RMAC Shootout.

The Orediggers managed to avoid many of those costly mistakes this past weekend when the team played two more close contests with Nebraska-Kearney and Chadron State. The first game against Kearney was fiercely competitive. The teams traded score for score and neither was able to maintain a lead for long for the majority of the first half. The Antelopes got hot in the last five minutes of the half, however, and pulled out to a 39-29 lead with two minutes left. Nevertheless, Mines made a run to keep the game within reach, scoring 5 in the next minute, capped off by a fantastic hook shot layup

by starter Kyle Pape which also drew a foul. Pape, who was named to the Pre-Season All-RMAC East Division Team, is the team’s leading scorer this season, averaging 20.6 points per game. Kearney went into the half ahead 41-34.

The second half started off with the teams trading scores back and forth with neither team gaining a clear advantage. Mines finally won that battle with an 8-0 run with to take the lead 58-56 with 13 minutes left. Starter Ben Mohr contributed five of those eight points.

The Orediggers rode the momentum they had to a 69-62 with seven minutes left, but Mohr, the game’s leading scorer and rebounder at that time with 25 points and six boards, appeared to injure his knee on his last score and had to leave the game. He would not return to action against Kearney nor play the following day. Nevertheless, Mines was able to hang onto that lead from that moment and prevailed 86-79. Pape led the team in scoring with 26 points.

Saturday’s game against Chadron State started off with a ceremony honoring alumni basketball players on the court. When the game started, it was a low scoring affair with Mines holding a 10-6 lead 10 minutes into the game. Mines held this lead until very late in the first half and ultimately trailed 27-23 going into half time.

The second half was a different story. Mines scored seven three pointers to start the half, including three by Pape. This streak was ended when Mohr’s replacement in the starting lineup, Levi Hamilton,

sank a pair of free throws to put the team up 46-40 eight and a half minutes into the half. It was at this point that CSM had equaled its offensive output for the entire first half. Such explosions have become the norm at the new Lockridge Arena. Coach Orser explained, “We love our arena. We love the new floor and everything. The problem is opposing teams are shooting 58 percent in our own gym. The teams in our league are averaging 58 percent and we’ve seen teams just come in here and shoot the lights out of it. I’ve never seen teams shoot as well. It’s a great shooting arena. The lighting, the floor: it’s a shooter’s dream. We’ve had teams come in here that are 23 percent three point shooting teams and they end up making 10, 11, 12 threes on us.”

The Eagles retaliated after Mines’s scoring burst and made the game 55-50 in their favor with just over six minutes remaining. Undeterred, the Orediggers went off on a 10-2 run to win 60-57, on the shoulders of starter Chad Frieauf, who scored the game’s last four points as well as a few critical rebounds. Frieauf had previously been out of Mines for two years after graduating. He has returned to Mines to pursue an undergraduate degree in Economics and Business. Frieauf returned in the middle of the season when a spot opened up for him on the team. “We’re just really happy that he came back,” Orser said of Frieauf. “He’s just doing a great job for us.”

SEE “MEN” PG 7

Despite bad breaks, women’s basketball team stays competitive

Matthew Pusard
Content Manager

With four games left in the season, CSM’s women’s basketball team still has a shot at going to the playoffs, the RMAC Shootout. With a 6-9 interconference record, the Orediggers are the ninth ranked team within the conference in which eight teams make the shootout. However, they are within striking distance of Adams State, the number eight ranked team with a 7-8 record. Fortuitously for CSM, Adams State will be playing the number one team in the conference, Fort Lewis, next weekend.

“We’ve had some adversity with some injuries and some changes in the lineup and those kinds of things,” said Coach Paula Krueger, in her fifth year with the team. “It forces a young team to grow really, really fast and it forces a coach to mature and make changes at the same time. With as much adversity as there has been, we have to feel relatively proud of the success that we’ve had thus far.”

One such injury occurred two weeks ago in CSM’s heartbreaking overtime loss at Chadron State, 60-58. Starting power forward Brecca Gaffney suffered a separated shoulder late in the first half and was unable to play in the team’s next game against Nebraska-Kearney, the number one team in Mines’s half of the conference with a 20-5 overall record and just 2 in conference

losses. One of those losses, however, came from Mines that night after a hard fought 73-61 victory.

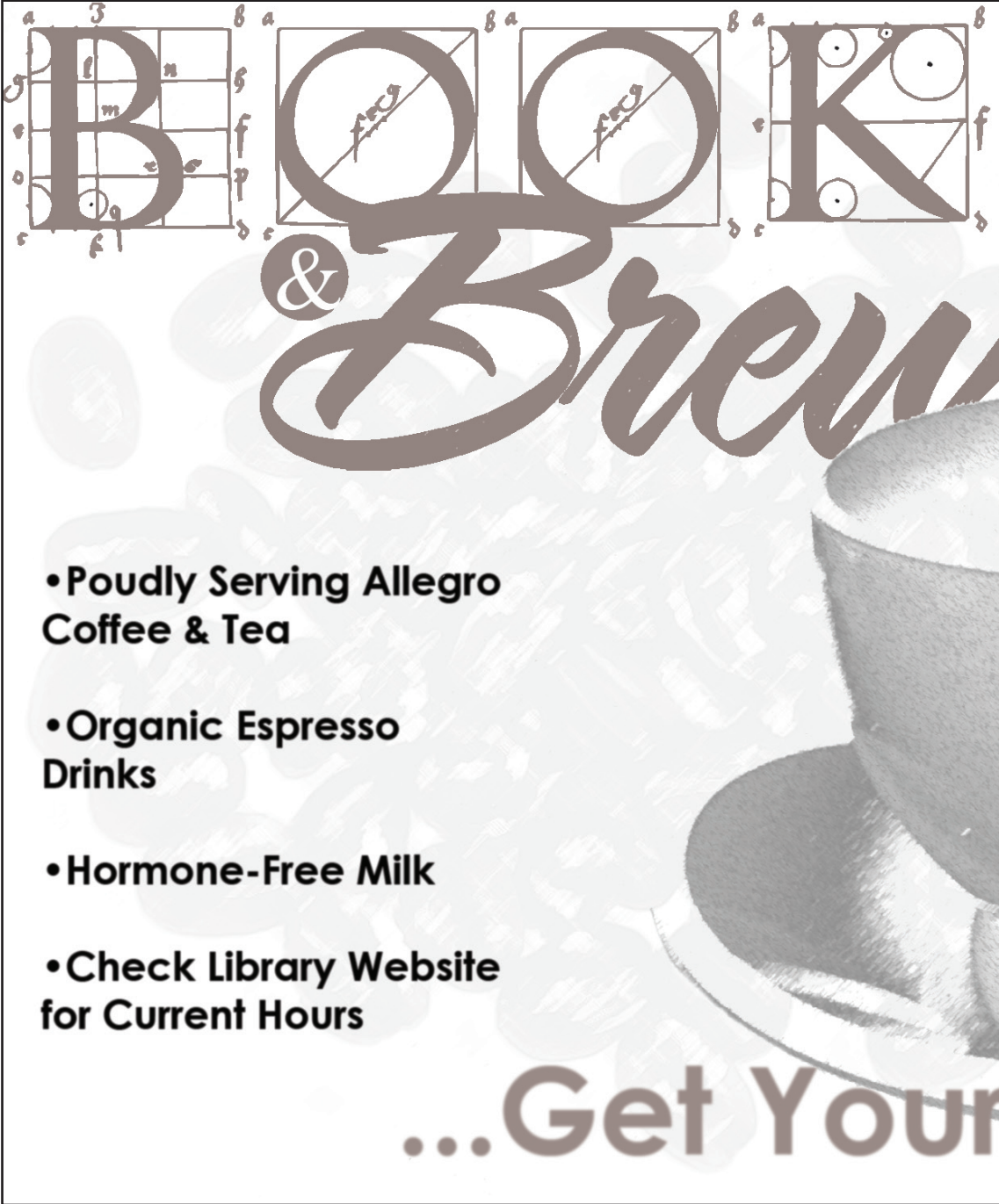
“We shot the ball really, really well and played as good of team basketball that we’ve played all year,” Krueger said of the game. “We really meshed well that game and we’re hoping to build on that and kinda turn a corner. We’re young and a little bit inconsistent so we’re hoping that that game can be something to really build on and push us towards the conference tournament.”

Going into that game, Nebraska-Kearney was riding a seven game winning streak and had never lost to the Mines women’s basketball team at home.

“Every game is extremely important right now when you are trying to make the conference tournament,” Krueger said before the games this weekend. “We want to play well at home. Being in the new facility, being in Lockridge [Arena], we haven’t established that same home court that we had here [in Volk Gymnasium]. Starting to play well at home is a big thing for us.”

The first game of the weekend started out promisingly for the Orediggers in a rematch against Nebraska-Kearney. The Orediggers ran out to an early 10-2 lead. Mines was able to hold the lead for much of the first half while Kearney tried to whittle away at it.

SEE “WOMEN” PG 7



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Women's basketball opportunity

CONTINUED FROM PG 5

The Lopers were finally able to make headway against the Mines ladies with a three pointer with about four minutes remaining to take the lead 20-19. This led to a hard fought couple of minutes with both teams exchanging threes and free throws. Ultimately, the Lopers scored a three with 30 seconds remaining to make the score 28-24 going into the half.

The second half started out well for the Lopers this time as they came out of the locker rooms with a 13-4 run. CSM never quite recovered from that and succumbed to Nebraska-Kearney 63-48. Emily Dalton was the leading scorer for Mines with 13 points. The Mines team played fantastically in the first half, but didn't show quite the same toughness in the second half. "I consider us a good team now," Krueger said. "We're trying to grow into what could be a great team. To be great, you have to have consistency and right now, that's the one thing we don't have. When we're good, we're really good, but when things are bad, we haven't figured out how to turn a corner when things are bad and still be consistent enough to win the games. That's a tough thing to learn and it's a long process and it takes some patience."

In the second game, a rematch of the Chadron State loss, the team took the lead early and never looked back with an 80-61 victory. Gaffney led the team with 21 points and starting Peanut Eickelman contributed 19 points, four assists, and three steals. But despite the impressive win, CSM's team was not without adversity when its starting center, Savannah Afoa, injured her left leg with 16:58 remaining in the game and did not return. "Savvy is the third leading shot blocker in the league," Krueger said of Afoa.



PATRICK BESEDA / OREDIGGER

"She's really a good defender. She's not extremely tall, but she's just very smart and her timing is really, really good. She disrupts a lot of shots on the inside at 6-1."

As with all Mines teams, not only do the players have to be able to succeed on the court, but they also have to do it in the classroom. Recently, Mines had four players named to the Academic All-RMAC team. "When you look at the kids, Emily Przekwas, Julie Marshall, Elise Goggin, Liz Jeffries, when you

look at those four kids that are All-RMAC, you are looking at Physics majors, Geophysics, Mechanical Engineering majors," said Krueger. "And not to take anything away from anybody that's an All-Academic, but when you are taking Calc I, II, and III and Thermodynamics and Physics I and II and your kids are still pulling their weight on the court and in the classroom and become All-RMAC Academics."

Next week's games will be Think Pink, an event for breast cancer awareness. "Think Pink is on February 16th. We are asking everybody who comes to the games to wear pink if they can. My kids will be wearing pink socks and all of the coaches will be wearing pink and the gate receipts from the game will be donated to breast cancer research," Krueger said of next weekend's festivities. "The men and women both will have the starting lineups throw out pink T-shirts that have the Think Pink logo and Colorado School of Mines on it and that sort of thing. We're trying to make it as big of an event as possible. There will be a 50-50 raffle: 50 percent will go to breast cancer and 50 percent goes to whoever wins it."

Mines plays its last two home games of the regular season next week against UCCS and Regis University.

Men's basketball keeps fighting

CONTINUED FROM PG 5

Many players are also good students. "Academically, we've had 10 kids get over a 3.0 this semester and our cumulative team GPA this fall semester is over 3.0," Orser explained. "We do have very good students and we have a number of them that would be very close to that Academic All Conference team. So we're recruiting the right type of kids and we're recruiting kids who will enter this school and graduate." Three CSM players, Mohr, Hamilton, and Casey O'Hayre, are currently on

the Academic All-RMAC team.

The last two home games of the regular season for CSM are next week. On February 16th, the men's and women's games will be hosting the Think Pink breast cancer awareness event. "We're all supportive of that and we're going to do our share," Orser said. "We'll be in pink and we think it's a good act for coaches and this school to support such a fine cause for cancer awareness. My father died of cancer so I'm 100 percent in favor of anything that has something to do with cancer awareness."



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Fool's Gold

"Break up with your girl on Valentine's Day- it will be hilarious"



Ferrets replace police dogs on the force

Strength, agility, ferocious sharp teeth- they have it all

Cameron Frisby
Animal Attack Specialist

Deviating from their usual prey of rabbits, ferrets are chasing down a whole new breed of animals for the Golden Police Department: criminals. Their unique combination of strength, quickness, savagery and smell-sensitivity has usurped the much loved police dog's position of power in the world of public safety. Long overlooked due to a nasty anti-ferret sentiment near the top of the National Police Academy Certification Board (NPACB), these tiny woodland creatures are bringing criminals to their knees.

The two main situations police dogs might be used are in the detection of drugs, bombs, or weapons and in the arrest of bad guys. The ferret's small size combines with its incredibly refined nose to make it the perfect undercover drug detection unit. Whether a mole (a person inside an organization, not the animal) needs to ensure that there are bomb parts in a warehouse before they can mount a raid, or if a customs officer needs to quickly check a bag, the ferrets are ready. A big hit with airport officers everywhere: the new drug ferrets can quickly tunnel through someone's luggage in a desperate search for

heroin, cocaine, and/or marijuana. An occasional ferret is lost in the line of duty when they accidentally get smothered by the dangerous hand-knitted, seasonal sweater. The method favored by the new enforcement animal is taking a 26.54 second power nap in its handler's hands when drugs are detected in the area. Additionally, ferrets, due to their small size and climbing ability, are able to breach the security of

any compound and escape with evidence of any wrongdoing. Beyond detection, these lovable and cute ferrets are taking the violent underworld by storm. Constantly vigilant, ferrets are able to survey any situation from their perch on the shoulders of a cop and are able to jump onto any lawbreaker with startling speed. The new favorite weapon of police stations across the country is the vaunted 'ferret bazooka'.

When a criminal/suspect/general bad guy tries to run away from the cops, the officers simply fire the 'ferret bazooka' and three ferrets fly through the air. Upon landing on their target, these dangerous, yet fluffy and cute, animals bring the criminal to the ground. Juan Von Listerbann, a crazy old ferret expert, regails us with his thoughts of the situation: "Yarr, them ferrets do great work." Deep, I know. The ferret boom has lowered violent crimes an average of 5% across the nation and has contributed to the seizure of over three hundred billion dollars of illegal drugs. Good job, Officer McScratchy, keep up the good work.

"Upon landing on their target, these dangerous, yet fluffy and cute, animals bring the criminal to the ground."

Bearded Lady of the Week

Hairy Jane tells the truth behind the beard

Tim Weilert
Hairy Details Expert

In light of recent "Geek of the Week" articles, we here at Fool's Gold have decided to give equal opportunity to every member of the carnival acting community. The Oredigger will no longer focus only on chicken-head-eating and geeks, but will be branching out. Without further ado, Bearded Lady of the Week. Victoria Jane Hollingsworth (aka Hairy Jane) Do you consider yourself a bearded lady? I don't like the phrase "bearded lady," I prefer "furry female." The tag "bearded lady" actually goes back to medieval times, when women would grow beards to ward off evil spirits, leprechauns,

and protect against the black plague. The modern usage of the words "bearded lady" has taken on new meaning. Traditionally, women with beards did not travel the countryside as a carnival attraction. When did you form your opinion about the term "bearded lady?" Well, it all goes back to the 80's when I was just a geek, biting the heads off of chickens and traveling the states with a circus company. One day I realized that, unlike 99.9999% of the female population, I did not want to shave my armpits. The hair grew and migrated up to my face. Since then I have been an

avid supporter of modernizing the women's beard movement. Who are your heroes? Well, there a quite a few, but some of my favorite people ever are Abraham Lincoln, ZZ Top, Karl Marx, and Blackbeard. All of them were innovators of thought and facial hair. Will you ever shave? I think not! Not only do I get strange looks all day, but I can hide things in my beard. When was the last time you tried to sneak a bag of candy into a movie theater with a clean shaved face? If you could be any kind of legume what would you be? What?! I don't even know what that has to do with anything! [just answer the question m'am, and we'll give your daughter back] Well if you put it like that, I would be a peanut, because they are full of protein and nutty goodness.

Fool's Gold Top Ten

Ways to say you're leaving a party

- 11 I'm out like Roger Clemens
- 10 I'm out like a Presidential Candidate
- 9 I'm out like Richard Simmons
- 8 I'm out like a plumber's crack
- 7 I'm out like Janet Jackson's "Malfunction"
- 6 I'm out like a fat kid playing dodge ball
- 5 I'm out like Brittany's self respect
- 4 I'm out like a deaf kid playing musical chairs
- 3 I'm out like Disco
- 2 I'm out like the "twins" on the first day of spring
- 1 I'm out like a clown Charlie Bwwwwwwaaaaa- like a clown, Charlie Bwwwwwwrown!

-Mike Stone

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“Cloverfield” monster invades Wyoming

Powerful beast taken down by starvation and boredom

Matthew Pusard
Finder of Wyoming Footage

The infamous monster that invaded Manhattan Island and turned it into a barren wasteland has finally been defeated by the unstoppable force of an actual barren wasteland: Wyoming.

Despite countless wounds from bullets, rocket propelled grenades, and carpet bombings by the armed forces, they were unable to take it down in New York City. Thus, once all 8 million residents of the fair city had been eaten, evacuated, or blown up, the monster moved onto other major cities, reeking havoc in its wake. Initially, it moved northeast, up to Boston where the destruction began anew. Unlike the destruction of NYC, which was met with shock and horror across the nation, Boston's obliteration garnered cheers, especially amongst Kennedy haters and sane sports fans.

President George W. Bush, who falls under both categories, went so far as to award the monster with a congressional medal

of honor, which it promptly ate. Next, the monster turned down the East Coast, decimating every major coastal city in its path. The destruction of each city was reminiscent of the last, with the military finding video footage of the monster after the fact. Many of the videos showed a group of mildly retarded friends heading back into the ravaged city towards the monster all while being taped by a lovable and hilarious camera guy. “I cried when the camera guy died,” said Master Sergeant Patrick Snow. “He’s the only one I really gave a damn about.”

After the destruction of Baltimore, the monster decided to head West, drawn by the lure of striking gold and possibly eating some tasty California blonds. Although it found a great food supply by heading through Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Indianapolis, and Chicago, the pickings were

slim when it hit Iowa and Nebraska. But Nebraska turned out to be a paradise for the monster compared to Wyoming. Upon arrival in the least populous state in the union, the monster started acting erratically, having not eaten or destroyed a nice skyscraper in days. It is speculated that it knew it had made a mistake upon entering the state, like all Wyomingites have felt at one time or another. The monster instantly tried to make a run towards Colorado, again just like all Wyomingites, but it was too late. The Cloverfield monster was terminally bored.

The monster made it all the way down to Greeley, Colorado, before succumbing to death. Residents speculate that the cow smell finished it off. The 500 foot tall monster’s corpse will be left on top of the city. City planners cite that it is an aesthetic improvement and it will help the town smell better as well.



COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Cloverfield: Fans cheered on the dying Wyoming monster.

West Weaver burns!

Cameron Frisby
Shocked Student

Friday, 2:43 AM. Flames envelop the top story of Weaver West. An FBI raid goes awry when a smoke grenade ignites a pile of old math worksheets. The fifth floor suite of Weaver West has now fallen from its position as the main campus mafia organization.

Drugs, kidnapping, unlicensed Star Trek merchandizing: they ran it all. Crushing everyone in their path, the notorious WW5 boys ran rampant for years. After being inducted by the suite's prior occupants, the organization's newest members terrorized the campus.

Their nefarious deeds included systematically crashing the wireless networks, hoarding Golden's entire supply of chapstick, stealing single socks from pre-selected driers, and randomly ripping “Do not remove” tags from mattresses. They brought our school to its knees.

A desperate cry from campus police fell on the ears of FBI investigator Chris P. Bacon. This dedicated enforcer of the law had hit a dead end until he came across an irked “Trekie.”

While enjoying a delicious guacamole burger in the Digger Den, Officer Bacon overheard a disgruntled geek vividly discussing his disappointment with his recently purchased plastic Polaris 9 planetary bombardment device.

Further comments about this unlicensed and low-quality Star Trek purchase lead Officer Bacon straight to the WW5 boys. After placing them under surveillance he uncovered Weaver's darkest secret: the solar panels' true purpose.

Fifteen years ago the young founders paid EHS to stop using the solar panels to heat water. Their multi-step plan became a reality when they retrofitted the water heating pipes to grow tomatoes using hydroponics.

Their produce was so glorious and tasty that the WW5 founders could sell the fresh tomatoes for enormous profits. From the birth of project “solar tomato,” the gang rode a wave of delicious soups and salads to their current golden age.

Highly distraught at the illegal activity, Bacon quickly organized a raid involving three twelve man SWAT teams complete with snipers on the roof of Weaver East.

Finding resistance, the battle raged for two days and five nights (both sides enjoyed day time naps). It quickly concluded when the now infamous stack of math worksheets caught fire.

The fire destroyed the fifth floor suite and their cache of illicit materials stored on the roof.

No-one knows what became of the WW5 boys, but now there are numerous upstart groups vying for the position of top dog. My money is on Mike “the rock” Stone's group of writers.....

Stone Cold Sober

Replace the letters to find a secret message! - Deadly Secret Cryptogram
Hint: F=N

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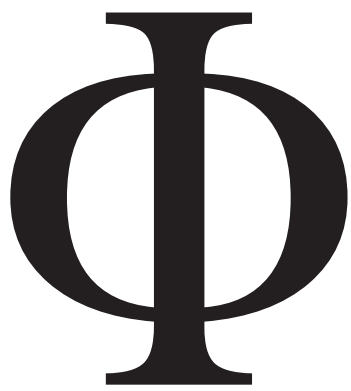
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		3	8			5	7	
	6		5	7		4		
		1	3	2				
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		4		5	6		8	
	7	8			4	9		
	9			8				5

Sudoku will be a regular part of the Fool's Gold section from now on thanks to a reader suggestion from Matt Ross. If you'd like to see something else in the Fool's Gold section, keep those suggestions coming!



Hillary vs. Obama

Andrew Aschenbrenner
Opinion Editor

Decisions, decisions. A white woman or a black man? Experience or change? That's what the media tells you. But alas, I've been over this before. The media only tells you what it can fit into its time-slot, and then only what it chooses to say. It's time to go deeper. This election is not about race, or gender, or age, or even experience. It isn't even all about change. It is about electability and future policy. It is time for the Democrats to wake up and smell the prospect of losing in November. The liberal party has a history of stupidity in the nominating process over the last thirty years, from Walter Mondale to Michael Dukakis to John Kerry. The Democratic party and the country need a smart decision on a nominee this time, and if the choice is Hillary Clinton, the Dems can kiss their likelihood of capturing the White House goodbye. Let's compare the voter demographics of the two remaining Democratic candidates, Clinton and Barack Obama. Both have widespread, enthusiastic support. According to CNN exit polls conducted on Super Tuesday, Clinton enjoys overwhelming support among Latino voters, as well as margins over Obama among women and voters over the age of 60. Obama

leads among men, younger voters, and has a particularly high margin of victory among black voters. As you can see, both have relatively even support. But there is a divide. As of right now, John McCain appears to have locked up the Republican nomination. Barring a colossal blunder by the GOP, Mike Huckabee's prospects will fade and McCain will lead the Republican ticket. When it comes to polls of head-to-head matchups, such as one done recently by Time magazine, Obama beats McCain by seven points. Hillary Clinton is tied. The poll's margin of error was three points. In addition, a CNN poll suggests that Obama is much more popular among the general public. A whopping 44-percent of the poll's respondents said they didn't like Clinton, compared with just 31-percent for Obama. Now, I know better than to assert that she can't win, because polls are sometimes wrong, and anything is possible. But her biggest battle is not against her current opponent, Obama. The fact remains that she has a major uphill battle against a potential McCain nomination. A nomination of Senator McCain is not pleasing to many conservatives, but he has incredible independent and moderate support.

SEE "NOMINEE" PG 11

A November surprise McCain a "lesser of two evils" in general election

Ricky Walker
Webmaster

Frankly, when going into Super Tuesday, I expected very different results. Namely, I expected that I would have something positive to say. Sadly however, it seems that it truly will be a lesser-of-the-two-evils decision in November. Why make this claim? To begin with, we have to look at John McCain, who is almost without a doubt going to be the Republican nominee. Frankly, nominating him was a stupid move. It seems that the thing that people like most about him is his strong stance on military defense and his history as a war hero. Not to be disrespectful to his military service, but here is some news for Senator McCain - being a war hero does not win elections. Ask John Kerry. Ask Bob Dole. It is simply not a winning strategy, and to nominate someone based solely on their military service is flat out ignorant. Candidates do not win elections based on military service. They win them based on their values and stances on issues. As the Republican candidate, McCain falls short on issues in more ways than one. The most recent and most appalling issue that he is to be condemned for is the McCain-Kennedy bill that was proposed over the summer. For those who do not know what this bill was about, it was an immigration

bill that would have given temporary visas to all illegal immigrants who merely claimed to have entered the country before the date of the bill's passing. After paying a fine and being subject to an "extensive" 24-hour background check, they would have received their visa. Passing this immigration bill would have not only promoted more illegal immigration, but it would have done a great disservice to those great men and women who immigrate to this country legally in order to earn a better life. Immigration is not the only stance where McCain falls short. McCain has not been ashamed to declare his desire to use the power of the federal government to take counteractive measures against global warming. That does not sound too terribly conservative to me. Yet despite these annoying details, McCain uses these facts to claim that he is bipartisan. The problem is that just because Democrats like it when he crosses the aisle does not mean they will vote for him. Even though many Democrats will happily state how much they like him, a Democrat voter will still vote for the Democrat candidate. By alienating Republicans and reaching out to those who will not vote for him, McCain is assuring defeat for the Republican Party in 2008. The only way that McCain will have a fighting chance in

2008 will be if the Democratic Party remains divided as it is right now. If the Democratic candidate has not been chosen by the time of the National Convention, then McCain will have an easy victory. This is because if both Hillary and Obama are popular going into the nomination, it is likely that the loser will still be fairly popular coming out of the nomination. While two months of campaigning will work to unite the Democratic Party, it will not be enough to overcome the unity that the Republican Party will be able to achieve in the following months. However, if either one of the Democratic candidates pulls ahead in the delegate count, then McCain will lose in a landslide. The losing candidate will simply become the running mate of the other, and the Democratic Party will become completely united. It is a grim sight for those who hold true to conservative values, but such is the state that we are in. Yet, optimism remains for those who hold true to conservative values. The saying that is becoming increasingly popular is that "It took a Carter to get a Reagan." Perhaps we will see a repeat of history in these upcoming years.

Duffy's corner: Time to unite

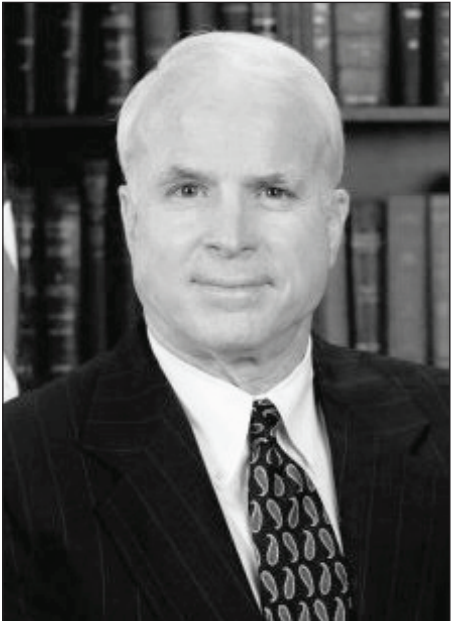
Kevin Duffy
Content Manager

With Presidential hopeful Mitt Romney announcing his withdrawal from the race, Senator John McCain has emerged as the GOP's presumptive nominee. The drama unfolded last week as both men gave speeches at the CPAC (Conservative Political Action Committee) convention, which followed the spectacle of Super Tuesday. Cries and shouts filled the D.C. Ballroom as Romney spoke to a crowd of conservative leaders. The moment was one of true desperation, as it confirmed that John McCain, an individual not considered a conservative by many in the movement, would be the GOP's nominee. The Republican Party is now faced with both crisis and opportunity, an ideological struggle and a path to the White House. To the political outsider, John McCain seems like a staunch conservative leader. His campaign has successfully portrayed that image in the last several months, but true conservatives have not been cajoled by the rhetoric. McCain's voting record and cooperation with polarizing liberals has made it impossible for some to support him. But with

the quartet of potential conservative standard-bearers, Giuliani, Thompson, Huckabee, and Romney, no longer viable, the GOP finds itself at a critical junction. Do they support a semi-conservative or do they sit out the election and give either Hillary or Obama an easy pass to victory? McCain is a war hero - an honorable and seemingly affable man. Even people who could never vote for him would likely agree with this. That is not enough, however, to account for the substantive policy difference he has championed, much to the dismay of common voters. While the list is plentiful, tax cuts, immigration, and campaign finance reform are three sore points of the McCain Doctrine. McCain has, until recently, voted against and denounced the Bush tax cuts, a policy largely viewed as a key economic stimulant after the tech-bubble recession. He claims that he could not cut taxes while Washington spending was, and still is, out of control, but that message falls on the deaf

ears of working-class Americans who need relief from overburdening taxes. Even more distressing to the conservative base is the McCain-Kennedy immigration reform bill of Summer 2007. While noble in intent, the bill amounted to amnesty for the over 12 million illegal aliens currently in the U.S., while providing no solutions to oncoming deluge of Mexican nationals. As if that wasn't enough, McCain was hesitant to revise his stance on the issue after a grassroots uproar of disapproval. The McCain-Feingold Act of 2002 may not get as much media attention as the economy and immigration, but the act bearing the Senator's name speaks volumes about his policy. The act was a feeble attempt at removing money, and ideally corruption, from the campaign process. The result was a jungle of government regulations that demarcated every source, dollar amount and advertisement endorsed by the campaign. The specificities of the act are considered unconstitutional by many

scholars and are constantly being challenged in the courts. These issues represent the tip of a constantly protruding iceberg set to derail the GOP in the fall. The cries at CPAC for Romney were real. Conservatives realized too late that he was their ideal conservative candidate. Romney's exiting remarks were not derogatory, but uplifting. He stressed the need to coalesce around McCain, despite their glaring differences. He put into perspective, for perhaps the first time, that if McCain does not win then either Hillary or Obama will be victorious - a shocking realization for all in the Republican Party. Shortly after the powerful Romney speech, McCain stepped to the podium ready to launch a national campaign. He was originally scheduled to speak at CPAC with the intent of proving his conservative credentials for the remaining primary and caucus states. With Romney's departure, he stood and faced the crowd with the task of uniting an ideologically fractured party, one which McCain knows must fully support him if he will ever gaze out over



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President McCain? : Conservative voters are undecided on the ideology of the potential nominee.

the manicured lawns of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue from the Oval Office. Therefore, whether or not people consider themselves a social, economic, Reagan or immigration conservative, they need to once again ask the "lesser of two evils" question. The thought of socialism instead of democracy, universal healthcare instead of private practice, open borders instead of citizenship, military defeat instead of victory, is enough to send shivers up the spine of any traditional American. The stakes have never been higher. Unless core conservatives swallow their pride and support McCain, the Democrats will finally have their way in changing America.

THE GRAVEDIGGER

"Every kiss begins with Kay?" My girlfriend told me that as we were leaving McDonalds dollar menu on a beautiful Valentine's Day morning. I had the whole day planned out. First, McDonalds, then the free concert at the park and finally to round the whole thing off, I would take her to a nicer restaurant - Wendy's.

Needless to say, since I was paying for the whole day, I didn't buy her a Valentine's Day gift. I don't know why, but she really didn't seem all that excited about the day's events when I dropped her off at night. She called me an hour later. When I picked up the phone she said, "Are you serious!?"

I said "yes" and that is how the relationship ended. Usually the word "no" would be more ideal for a dying moments of a relationship, but, heck, I am the Gravedigger. I bet that, if I had spent \$96.57 on breakfast alone, she would have not called me back after I dropped her off. Hey, you win some you lose some.

The entire purpose of Valentine's Day is to spend it with the one who makes you happy. Why is Benjamin Franklin is the only guy that makes a girl happy now-a-days? When I went back to my dorm after the surprise ending of the date, little Timmy came in and bragged about how he got a diamond necklace, a hotel room and everything. His total spending on the day came out to be close to \$600, and he was only gone for three hours.

After putting little Timmy's head through the wall, I realized that I would rather pay for my education than spend one Valentine's Day with a gold-digger, although the names would sound kind of cool. The gravedigger and the gold-digger; cute, huh? Since it is Valentine's time, I have decided to attach an optional emotional poem from me to my now ex-girlfriend:

Roses are Red
violets are Blue,
Gravedigger is handsome
what happened to you?
Sometimes I think of us
how we used to be

Then I think I'm glad of what I came to see:

You were the darkness at the end of the tunnel

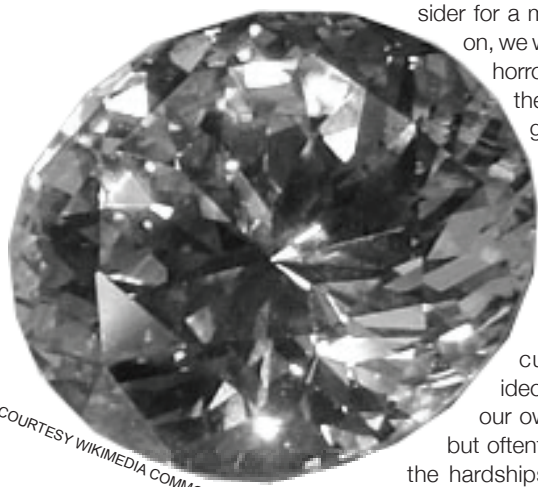
Although you would drain me like a funnel

Since you'd never admit you're wrong,

I'm gonna say: F-U - Now get out of my way.

I will hate you till the end

When you're swimming with the fishes and I'm on the river bend



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Facebook status: The Gravedigger is going to get a job and start saving up for next years Valentine's Day.

The Gravedigger

David Sommer
Staff Writer

It seems to me that we are confronted with a great standardization of society and that progress has taken on a new meaning, that it is merely the replacement of old patterns with new ones. Perhaps this is somehow required for a society to function. Perhaps it is altogether necessary for us to think alike and act alike and breath alike, so that when it comes time for us to look around and consider for a moment what is going on, we will not have to face the horror of being wrong. I see

the greatest minds of my generation destroyed in such a way. I see them atrophy in complacency and spit out meaningless phrases like echoes in a valley, hollow and empty.

We may resist the current of communal ideology and strike out on our own path to realization, but oftentimes we succumb to the hardships of original thought. When the individual projects himself to these limits and stands poised at the meridian of thought, he finds himself alone and a stranger to the world. In these still hours of isolation, the mind demands validation of its actions. The individual wants to know if he is right. He is balanced

on the precipice of the world, torn in the disparity between "yes" and "no," and, if he is to take the dive into the darkness of his uncertainty, he must do it with a resounding affirmation ringing in his ears.

He comes to the meridian in search of confirmation, and for this he ultimately flees. Yet, for the moment he can no longer accept the world as it is. He refuses the old lies and the old ways. They have taught him nothing except passivity. The hour the mind turns to questions, this is the hour of freedom. Still, he stands paused at the edge, looking beyond the limits and into a new reality that he, and he alone, creates. How much he wants to flee. How much he wants to return to a world exempt from responsibility, a world in which everything is given and nothing is questioned. He turns his back on the verge of a new order so that no one can tell him he is wrong. He fears the burden of the creator.

It is not surprising, then, that very few people are capable of saying something new. We merely recycle phrases and read from a script that was given to us at birth. We want others to understand us, and for this we sacrifice understanding ourselves. We take on the standard of the world because everybody recognizes it. We wear the same mask and look into the same mirror. Walk up to anybody and ask them what they want, what they feel is truly important, and tell me

if they say something fundamentally different from everyone else you talk to, or if they say anything at all. Many of us never stop in the course of our lives to consider who we are and where we are going. If we do, it is usually for some moment of pain or suffering, and we realize how frightful and hard the question really is. That is enough to send anyone back into the comforts of the known. We ignore the question, and it is by some act of luck that we realize we are marching blindly and silently toward the grave.

We are caught inevitably in the transience of all things, and we watch in horror from our bedsides as the long chains of history repeat themselves. These are the chains that bind us. We stumble upon the same hopes and the same fears, babbling them incoherently to the broken stones of our idols. There is little comfort in this. Yet, for the individual who faces the limits of his existence, who struggles invariably with the meridian, there is at least a cry against the terms that have been set for him. It resounds in a land of the mute and deaf.

By now you may be saying "But I am different" or "You prick, how dare you call me unoriginal." But that is part of the point. Do not just react and contradict. You add nothing new. Create with your whole heart and your whole mind. Create so that when you stand silently at the precipice of your grave you can hold up a monument to your life that screams, "I exist!"

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In response to the sadly unthought-provoking article entitled, "Are we ready" regarding Mitt Romney's run for president, I would ask the writer of that article whether or not he believes that separation of church and state is limited only to politicians. If you would like a president who can separate his religious beliefs from political

policy-making, I would encourage you to keep your religious bigotry out of your voting preference. Voting (for or) against a presidential candidate based solely on religion seems hypocritical to me.

Let's carry the "logic" of this author one step further. If Romney was Jewish would there be a fear that he would try to enforce Kosher on the American public?

Did JFK try to forbid the American people from eating meat on Fridays during Lent? Such ideas are completely asinine, but not any more ridiculous than when the author stated that, "Quite possibly, Romney could detrimentally influence celebrated freedoms in America - such as the right to consume alcohol and unhealthy food."

As for the gender discrimination

in the Mormon faith, I would encourage people to get their information from someone a little more credible than the writer of this article. As a Mormon and a female, I have never felt that my faith has limited me in accomplishing what I want to achieve. In fact, it has been quite the opposite experience for me.

Amanda LeBaron

What's your beef?

ASCSM President Casey Morse answers your questions

Beef: The I-Club needs to serve beer.

Response: They do serve beer from 4:00-5:30 every other Friday for \$1 each. Otherwise, it's a short drive to Coors and their beer is free. I just don't know that serving beer on campus every day during lunch would promote the right kind of scholarly atmosphere.

Beef: What's with mandatory graduation attendance?

Response: Graduation is not necessarily "mandatory." If you have some reason for not wanted to attend, just explain it to the Dean. I'm sure you'll still receive your degree.

Beef: Varsity coaches discourage athletes from participating in other activities and clubs.

Response: This is a tough issue. All students should be encouraged to participate in activities on campus. At the same

time, many of the athletes are here on scholarship for their athletics, and their coaches therefore expect a certain level of commitment.

Beef: The cartoons drawn on the sidewalk recently were really cool. Can we have that more often?

Response: ASCSM would be more than happy to sponsor and fund an organization if they were interested in making this a regular thing. If anyone is interested in creating a sidewalk cartoon-drawing organization, please come to Student Activities and we'll help you get started.

Beef: Remove the credit card surcharge.

Response: The credit card fee would be paid by the school if not by the student. Since the school has little control over tuition, they need to pass that fee on to the students. This is different in a retail store, because they would raise

the price of goods to factor in the fee for credit card payments. The school is unable to do that, because they have little price control.

Beef: Have Volk open later and more often for racquetball.

Response: Students are looking in to this right now. We hope we can make an impact and get more operating hours for you.

Beef: Why are we paying \$50 for a parking garage when there are open spots on campus?

Response: People want parking spots in closer proximity to their classroom buildings. Also, the garage fits into the schools ten-year plan and will help encourage a walking campus. There are also some potential plans to remove street parking in the future. This will help with the added pressures of removing those spaces.

Nominee still undecided

CONTINUED FROM PG 10

The independent voting bloc will be key in November. Also key: the aforementioned Time poll gives Obama the edge among independent voters, even as Clinton leads by six points among registered Democrats.

The caucuses and primary that took place over the week-end may indicate a shift post-Super Tuesday. While the contests were expected to be won by Obama, he won by a wide margin on Saturday, gaining twice the number of delegates as Hillary Clinton in both Nebraska and Washington, and he was winning with 55% of the vote in Louisiana late Saturday night. He also appears to have an edge on Tuesday in the Maryland, Virginia, and Washington D.C. primaries.

Clinton is aiming for the prizes on March 4, where Ohio and Texas will be holding primaries with 141 and 193 delegates at stake, respectively. But could this current tide of huge Obama wins turn the tables on Hillary? Unless Clinton wins decisively on

March 4, the race for the Democratic nomination could be over. She is clinging to a lead given to her by unpledged "super-delegates," who could easily switch candidates, leaving her in the dust.

The resolution of the Democratic nominating contest has been debated on the cable news networks, specifically whether the unresolved nature combined with the seeming inevitability of a McCain candidacy on the Republican side hurts the Democrats.

One could argue that the current contests don't really matter, and that the battle will continue until a nominee is chosen at the Democratic National Convention in Denver in August. But what really doesn't matter is the squabbling now. What matters is November, and who will be most successful going head-to-head against the Republican nominee, presumably John McCain.

In the ongoing battle of Clinton vs. Obama, popularity is not the issue. November is the issue. And the best data available suggests that when it comes to the general election, Obama is the answer.

IM SPORTS

UPCOMING
EVENTS



SPORT	ENTRY DEADLINE	DATE
4 VS 4 VOLLEYBALL (M,W, CR)	THURS. 2/14@5PM	SUN. 2/17 @6PM
GUITAR HERO	THURS.2/14 @5PM	MON. 2/25 @6PM
BILLIARDS (M,W)	THURS.2/21@5PM	MON. 2/25 (TBA)

SPORTING EVENT	DATE
LACORSSE HOME GAME	SAT. 2/16 @ 2PM

CLUB SPORTS

BASKETBALL POWER RANKINGS
COME SUPPORT THE COURT!

- MEN'S TOP 6
- 1. SHOCKERS
 - 2. SHOOTER MCGAVINS
 - 3. ADVANCED BASKETBALL
 - 4. OUTA CONTROL
 - 5. SHOCKOLATE RAWBERRY
 - 6. DWIGHT'S REBELLION



- Co-REC TOP 4
- 1. CHUY'S CHULO'S
 - 2. KAPPA SIGMA ALPHA PHI
 - 3. PETER COLLIN'S TEAM
 - 4. ANGELA'S REBELLION